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N.C. EDUCATION LOTTERY COMMISSION ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR RETAILER SECURITY AND TICKET PRICES

RALEIGH- North Carolina Education Lottery commissioners today voted on security plans for background investigations for retailers, how it will determine ticket prices and value of prizes, among several other key factors for the start-up of the lottery games. During today's teleconference, the commission voted to hire 12 Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) agents to ensure security with retailers.

"In order to uphold the integrity of the Education Lottery, finalizing security plans for retailers was a top priority," said Dr. Charles Sanders, commission chairman. "We'll start with 12 agents, with a potential to add more, if it's deemed necessary."

Executive Director Tom Shaheen added, "I am very pleased with the decision of the commission to go forward with plans to get the ALE agents working on background investigations on retailers and other site security issues because once they are completed, then the retailers can prepare to sell the state's first ever Education Lottery tickets and help raise millions of dollars for North Carolina's students. The proceeds will be used to reduce class size, build schools and provide college scholarships to need-based individuals."

The commission also voted to give Shaheen the authority to specify the number of prizes and values for winning tickets in the lottery games, which includes cash prizes and merchandise prizes. Shaheen will also be able to specify the retail sales price for tickets. Initially, retail prices are expected to be between one and five dollars.

In other business, the NCEL approved a minority outreach plan for lottery-related projects and a retailer dispute policy. Some personnel actions include the announcement of five more top management positions being filled, approval of job classifications for additional lottery employees and a drug testing policy.

For additional information about the N.C. Education Lottery, visit its website at www.lottery.nc.gov, or call 919/715-6886 (71-LOTTO).

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